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SOUTH AFRICA - ANGOLA - MOZAMBIQUE: Continuing Pressure

South Africa is keeping up its military pressure on Angola and Mozambique even though it has been holding high-level talks with both countries to ease tensions. [REDACTED]

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A senior South African diplomat recently has been in Cape Verde to arrange for a second round of talks with Angolan officials on a possible cease-fire in southern Angola. Pretoria also plans to hold more talks soon with Mozambique. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The South African operations will not expand the conflicts in Angola and Mozambique substantially, but they indicate that Pretoria will not ease up on its neighbors unless they bar anti - South African guerrillas from their territory. Even if Luanda and Maputo were to agree to do so, however, Pretoria probably would doubt their ability to follow through. [REDACTED]

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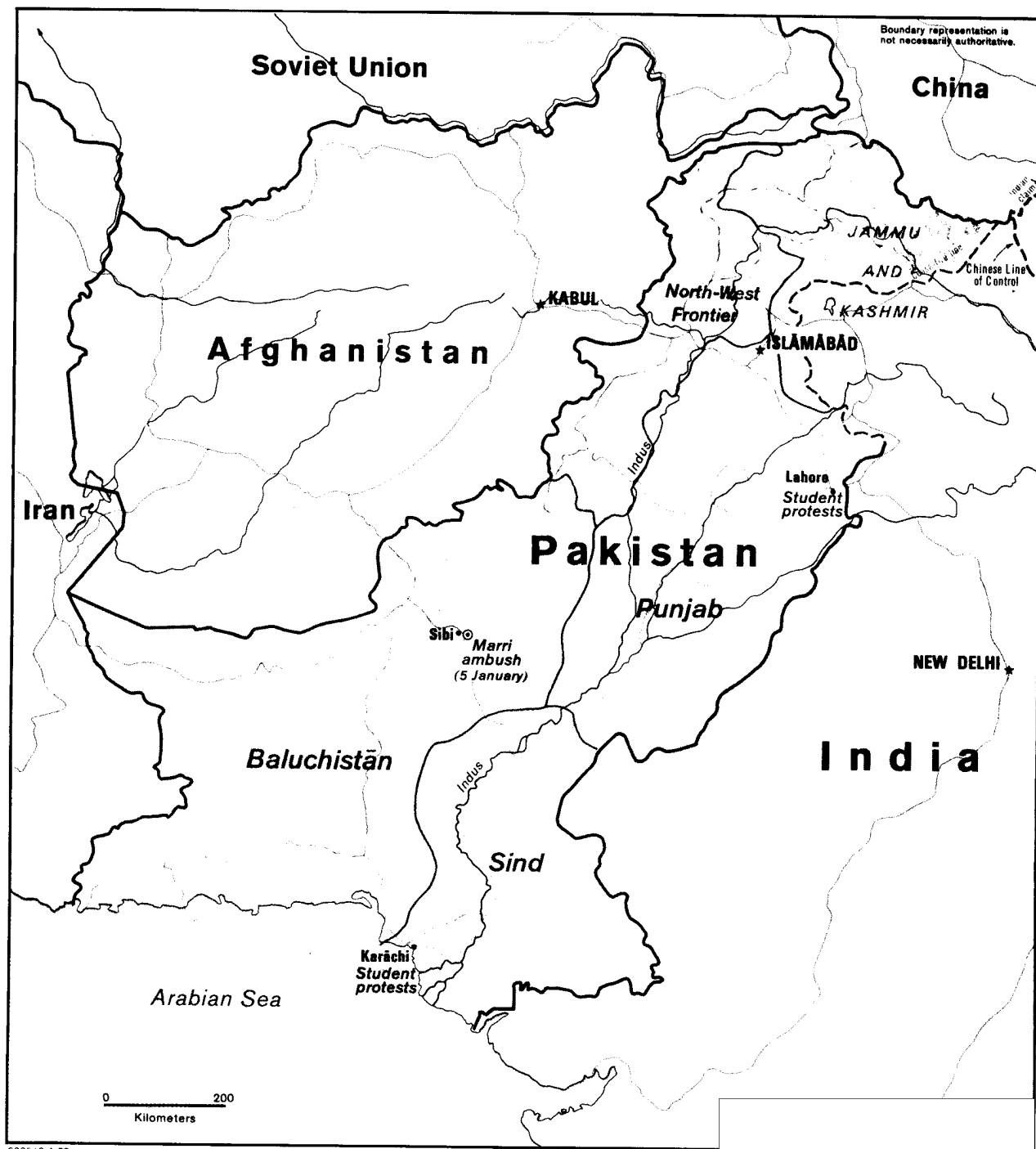
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PAKISTAN: Rise in Domestic Tension

President Zia may soon face heightened discontent over an assortment of social and economic issues that his political opponents can exploit. [redacted]

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In Baluchistan Province, Marri tribesmen opposed to opening tribal areas to development have ambushed a government patrol protecting a roadbuilding project.

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Higher gas and oil prices and periodic blackouts in all the major cities of Pakistan are prompting criticism of the government by opposition groups and by large businesses. Small merchants and the urban poor have not yet felt the increases. [redacted]

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In Karachi and in some cities in Punjab Province, student protests over university issues have caused violent clashes with police. [redacted]

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Comment: Dissident Marris who recently returned from exile in Afghanistan may have staged the ambush. The dissidents are likely to try to exploit the opposition to the government's development plans in Baluchistan to gain support for renewed insurgent activity. The government's reluctance to crack down reflects the volatile nature of the situation but risks emboldening the dissidents. [redacted]

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Along with rising prices, energy concerns could give opponents of the regime a strong issue to rally protests against Zia's management of the economy, particularly if the bazaar merchants and urban poor join in. The campus clashes indicate that feuding student groups could coalesce to confront the government over educational issues. [redacted]

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KAMPUCHEA-THAILAND: Results of Sihanouk's Visit

Prince Sihanouk, head of the anti-Vietnamese coalition government of Kampuchea, yesterday concluded a weeklong visit to Thailand intended to improve relations with his ASEAN supporters and to raise morale among his resistance forces. [redacted]

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The visit, which ended Sihanouk's self-imposed political exile in North Korea, was encouraged by Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. They were concerned by recent reports that he was dissatisfied with the limited material support he had received and was threatening to retire from an active role in the coalition. ASEAN members also were worried about reports that Sihanouk might hold discussions with Hanoi without the backing of his coalition partners. [redacted]

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Comment: The high-level attention and promises of aid that Sihanouk received in Thailand almost certainly have reassured him, and he probably will resume his activities in support of the coalition. He plans to travel to Africa and Western Europe later this year to seek more international support for the coalition. [redacted]

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WARSAW PACT: New MBFR Proposal

The East yesterday reiterated to the MBFR conference in Vienna the recent Warsaw Pact proposal that the US and USSR reduce their forces in Central Europe by "mutual example," outside the framework of a formal MBFR agreement. A Soviet delegate explained privately to US representatives that the cuts would be negotiated by the two governments without requiring agreed data. He said that the USSR would suggest numbers to be cut later and that withdrawals would be monitored by observers at checkpoints. The Soviet delegate suggested that an agreement could be announced at a US-Soviet summit. [redacted]

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Comment: The proposal appears to be an attempt to regain the initiative in the MBFR talks and to maintain pressure on the West to accede to longstanding Eastern demands for mutual troop reductions without prior agreement on current force levels. It also is part of the campaign by the USSR to persuade West Europeans that it is sincere in seeking progress on disarmament. [redacted]

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POLAND: Underground Solidarity Statement

The leadership of the Solidarity underground, in its first statement since the suspension of martial law, has urged preparations for a general strike. The statement, which was released yesterday to Western journalists, also called for continued boycott of government-sponsored trade unions, a close monitoring of the regime's behavior to ensure the protection of workers' rights, and the creation of social and educational groups independent of state control. [redacted]

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Comment: The underground leadership probably has no specific plans for a general strike in the coming months. The statement and a recent brief broadcast in Warsaw by the underground radio are intended largely to raise the morale of Solidarity supporters and to signal that the underground leaders will continue trying to organize resistance. Although the underground poses no immediate threat to the government, the security services can use such statements to strengthen their position against moderates in the regime. [redacted]

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BELGIUM-US: F-16 Coproduction Problems

Belgium's rejection this week of a US draft threatens its plan to coproduce an additional 44 F-16 aircraft for the Belgian Air Force. Defense officials say they cannot accept the new draft because it differs substantially from understandings already reached. US diplomats, meanwhile, report that public opposition to the purchase is growing again, particularly in Flanders. [redacted]

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Comment: The current program to build 116 F-16 aircraft will end in 1984, but Belgium wants the additional aircraft to begin replacement of its aging Mirage V fighter-bombers by the late 1980s. The Belgians reportedly need an agreement soon to avoid interrupting production at facilities located mostly in the economically depressed Walloon region. Since the start of the F-16 program, Flemish leaders have consistently asserted that their region is not receiving a fair share of the economic benefits. [redacted]

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WESTERN EUROPE - TURKEY: Council of Europe Rebuke

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe this week adopted a resolution warning the Turks that it may yet consider recommending their expulsion from the Council. The broadly backed resolution also asked Turkey to refrain from voting in the Council's Committee of Ministers until Ankara restores full democratic rule and freely elected Turkish deputies again participate in the Assembly. On the eve of the deliberations, however, Foreign Minister Turkmen said the resolution would not be binding because Ankara no longer recognizes the Council as a "competent authority." [redacted]

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Comment: The Assembly's majority vote censuring Turkey is the strongest Council action thus far against the military regime. Nevertheless, the rather tame reference to possible expulsion reflects the continuing reluctance of many West European states to deepen the current rift between Turkey and the Western community. [redacted]

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PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN-USSR: UN Peace Plan

Pakistani President Zia has accepted in principle a UN plan for a settlement in Afghanistan, provided that the Soviets agree to a prompt, complete troop withdrawal. The US Embassy in Islamabad reports that Zia insisted to UN mediator Cordovez, who is now in Kabul, that the Soviets also have to agree to the plan's safeguards for returning refugees. Some Pakistani officials are concerned that the Soviets will propose a protracted withdrawal, lasting possibly up to five years, and insist upon retaining a large number of troops in "advisory" positions. Cordovez has assured Zia that such a delay is unacceptable and that he will push for an expeditious troop removal.

[redacted]

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Comment: Zia probably believes that the UN plan is an opportunity to test General Secretary Andropov's purported flexibility. He also may consider a positive response useful to help maintain international support for Pakistan in parrying Soviet pressure. Any indication from Cordovez's talks in Kabul that the USSR intends to drag out withdrawal or to retain a military presence in Afghanistan almost certainly would preclude an early agreement by Pakistan.

[redacted]

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INDIA: Government and Party Shakeup

The resignations offered to Prime Minister Gandhi yesterday by all members of the cabinet, chief ministers of states run by her Congress Party, and other top party officials are in reaction to her concern about the defeat of the party in three state elections earlier this month. Gandhi has assigned a trusted former cabinet minister to preside over the reorganization of the government and party. Two major opposition parties have announced a merger and have called for a revival of the "spirit of 1977," when opposition parties formed a coalition that ousted Gandhi.

[redacted]

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Comment: The Prime Minister is trying to strengthen her party's image before elections in other states next month. In past reorganizations, she has maintained most of her cabinet, but this time she may make major changes. Gandhi is likely to replace those chief ministers of the Congress Party who have been unable to contain intra-party factionalism. Such infighting has weakened the party and contributed to its recent defeats.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Oil Production Increase

The announcement by the United Arab Emirates that it intends to increase oil production by 33 percent is another step in an apparently coordinated series of moves by the Persian Gulf states to force other OPEC nations into line on price. The government justified its decision on the grounds of economic need.

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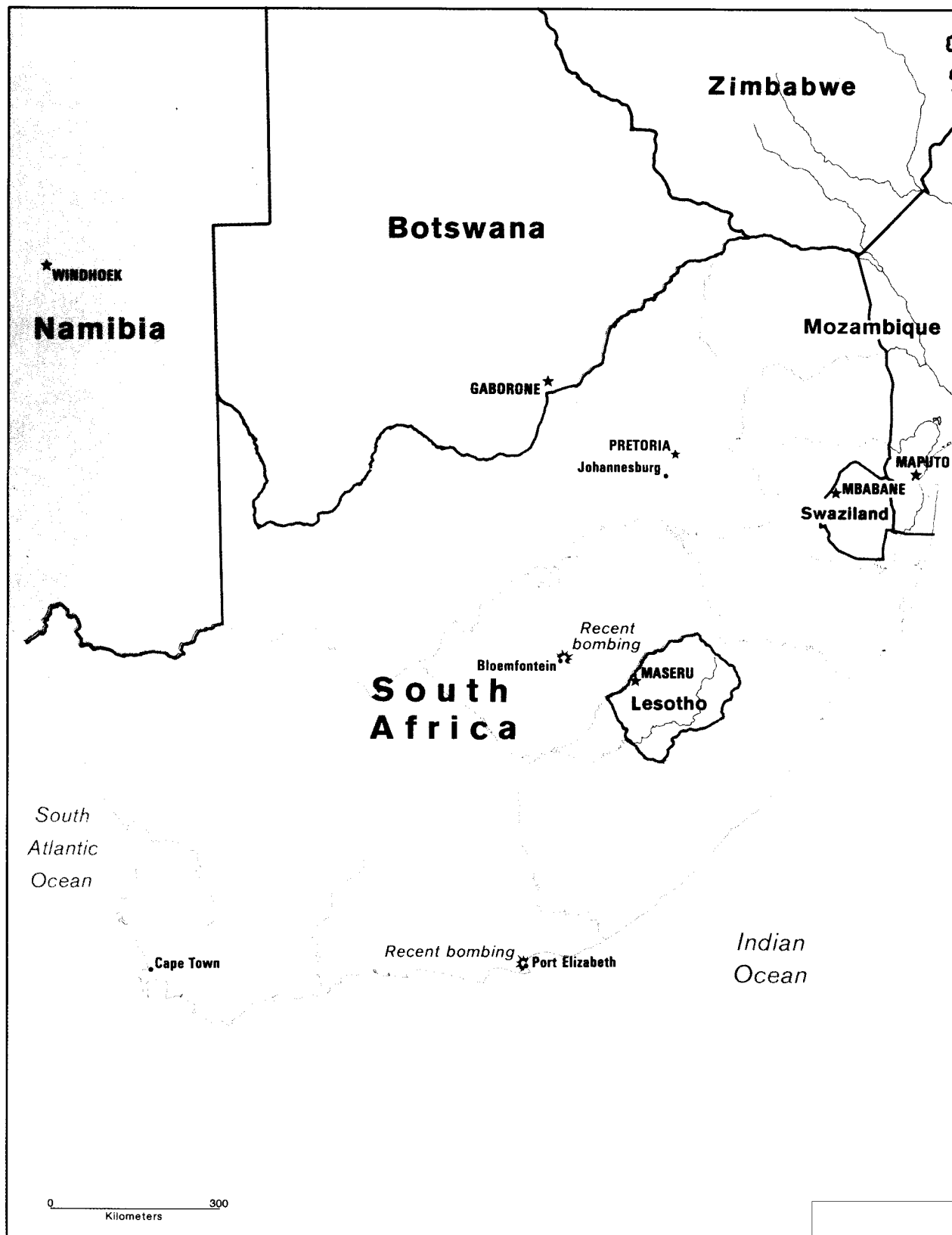
Comment: The UAE posted a \$3.8 billion current account surplus last year, and the claim of economic need is specious. At its current production rate of 1.2 million barrels per day, the UAE would still earn enough this year to allow for increased imports and a \$2.7 billion surplus. Abu Dhabi almost certainly will have to cut its oil price to sell the larger amount.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Terrorist Attacks

Guerrilla sabotage incidents have increased recently. On Thursday a bomb damaged a railway bridge in Bloemfontein, and earlier in the week another bomb exploded in a government office building in Port Elizabeth. Since October, there have been small-scale attacks on defense and petroleum facilities. Bombings occurred last month at the Koeberg nuclear power plant and at a Johannesburg courthouse. [redacted]

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Comment: The African National Congress probably is responsible for all of these incidents, which are likely to lead to more stringent internal security measures. The bombings also may prompt Pretoria to launch additional attacks on ANC targets in neighboring black states. [redacted]

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